CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In an intraoperative ultrasound probe for insertion into a patient, the intraoperative ultrasound probe having a handle section and a transducer section, the transducer section including a transducer, an improvement comprising: an adaptable section between the handle section and the transducer section.

- 2. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section is operable to rotate the transducer section relative to the handle section.
- 3. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section is operable to maintain a plurality of positions of the transducer section relative to the handle section.
- 4. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section comprises a memoryless bendable section.
- 5. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section comprises a metal shaft.
- 6. The probe of Claim 5 wherein the metal shaft comprises aluminum wire.
- 7. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section comprises a ball joint.
- 8. The probe of Claim 7 further comprising a tensioned wire connected with the transducer section and the handle section through the ball joint.
- 9. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section comprises a latch.

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- The probe of Claim 9 wherein the latch comprises a notched portion 10. connected with one of the handle and transducer sections and a pawl connected with a different one of the handle and transducer sections.
- 11. An intraoperative or endocavity ultrasound probe for insertion into a or surgical incision of a patient, the probe comprising:

a transducer housing;

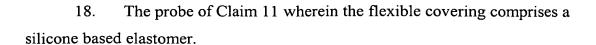
a handle housing; and

an adjustable section joining the transducer housing to the handle housing, the adjustable section having a flexible covering and a device to maintain an adjusted position without steering wires.

- 12. The probe of Claim 11 wherein the adjustable section is operable to rotate the transducer housing relative to the handle housing.
- 13. The probe of Claim 11 wherein the adjustable section is operable to maintain a plurality of positions of the transducer housing relative to the handle housing without user control while in the cavity or surgical incision.
- 14. The probe of Claim 11 wherein the adjustable section comprises a memoryless bendable section.
 - 15. The probe of Claim 11 wherein the device comprises a metal shaft.
- 16. The probe of Claim 11 wherein the device comprises a ball joint and a tensioned wire connected with the transducer housing and the handle housing through the ball joint.
- 17. The probe of Claim 11 wherein the adjustable section comprises latch having a notched portion connected with one of the handle and transducer housings and a pawl connected with a different one of the handle and transducer housings.

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- 19. A method for using an intraoperative or endocavity ultrasound probe, the method comprising the acts of:
 - inserting the probe into a cavity of a patient; (a)
- rotating a first axis of a transducer housing relative to second (b) axis of a handle housing prior to (a); and
- maintaining a relative position of the first and second axes during (a)
- 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein (c) comprises maintaining one or a plurality of possible relative positions.
- 21. The method of Claim 19 wherein (b) comprises rotating in a pitch angle of the first axis to the second axis.
- 22. The method of Claim 19 wherein (b) and (c) comprise bending a metal shaft.
- 23. The method of Claim 19 wherein (b) and (c) comprises adjusting a ball joint having a tensioned wire connected with the transducer housing and the handle housing through the ball joint.
- 24. The method of Claim 19 wherein (b) and (c) comprise adjusting a latch having a notched portion connected with one of the handle and transducer housings and a pawl connected with a different one of the handle and transducer housings.
 - 25. The method of Claim 19 further comprising:
- (d) increasing the malleability of the probe in response to an external force prior to (b).

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26. The probe of Claim 1 wherein the adaptable section comprises a material more malleable in response to external force than absent the external force.

add By